Media Master™

Disk-to-Disk Format Conversion Software

DG/SYSTEMS

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WELCOME

Congratulations! Your decision to purchase MEDIA MASTER software has made your computer data compatible with over 20 other computers.

MEDIA MASTER is designed for one simple purpose – to transfer files in an efficient manner between diskettes that are "foreign" to your computer system.

Your distribution package should include this manual, an end user agreement and the file "MM.COM" on your distribution diskette. Also, you should look for a file on the diskette named "READ.ME". This file may be included to provide additional information or documentation corrections that have become available since the printing of this manual.

Before attempting to use this package, you should make at least one backup copy of the distribution diskette using the COPY program supplied with your computer. Next, on the Osborne I or Kaypro, use the SYSGEN program, as described in your User's Manual to copy system tracks onto your working diskettes. On the Osborne Executive, use the COPYSYS program to place a copy of the CP/M – plus operating system on the MEDIA MASTER working diskette. Now, place the MEDIA MASTER distribution diskette in a safe storage place and use only your working copy for day-to-day operations.

This manual is designed for both the Kaypro and Osborne versions of MEDIA MASTER, since these two versions are functionally identical. The Kaypro version supports the Kaypro II and 2. The Osborne version supports the double density Osborne

I and the Osborne Executive. The last section in this manual summarizes specific information regarding the use of MEDIA MASTER with your computer.

We are confident that you will find MEDIA MASTER a valuable addition to your software library. As you become familiar with the program, please feel free to drop us a line describing your likes, dislikes, and suggestions for improvements. Most of the improvements to other versions of MEDIA MASTER are a direct result of user feedback.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The MEDIA MASTER software package requires that your computer have the following:

CP/M Operating System 2.2 or greater
Two Single-Sided Floppy Disk Drives
Optional printer attached as the CP/M "LST:" device

OVERVIEW OF OPERATION

If you are an experienced computer user, you can probably get MEDIA MASTER to perform commands for you by just reading the next few paragraphs. However, we recommend that you read this manual completely before performing the ERASE, FORMAT and COPY selections on the Main Menu.

You will note that after choosing any menu selection, a message appears in the upper left-hand corner that says "To back up one screen, press ESCape". This is a reminder that you can always back up to a previous step by pressing the ESCape key.

You start the program by typing "[d:]MM<return>," where the optional "d:" specifies the drive on which the program resides. After a few seconds of disk operation the Main Menu should appear. At this point, you can remove the diskette containing "MM.COM", because MEDIA MASTER is completely loaded in system memory.

There are eight menu selections available on the Main Menu. To make a selection, you press the selection followed by <return>. For instance, to perform the first selection, you press "1<return>".

Menu selection 1 (COPY File(s)) allows you to transfer files between disks in any of the available formats, provided they have been identified through the LOG IN of menu selection 4. You enter a source file specification ("D: srcfile. ext<return>") and a destination file specification ("d:desfile. ext<return>") to perform the COPY. The CP/M wildcard "*" may be used in the source file specification.

MEDIA MASTER copies files in the same manner as the CP/M "PIP" utility. It first creates a temporary file with a dollar sign extension. After the file has been successfully transferred, it erases the old file (if there is one) and renames the new file with the proper extension. Thus you are assured that old files are not erased before new ones have been successfully copied.

Menu selections 2 and 3 (PRINT, DISPLAY Directory) allows you to get detailed file and disk space allocation information on screen. You enter a file specification (for all files, enter "d:<return>") to perform the directory. Wildcards ("d:*.com<return>") may be used to obtain space allocation of specific groupings of files.

Menu selection 4 (LOG IN a New Diskette) must be used prior to performing any operation on a "foreign" diskette. You select a drive ("d<return>") and then a format. The format selection is made with a letter ("s<return>") instead of a number. The program then automatically displays the directory of a new diskette. You press any key to return to the Main Menu.

Menu Selection 5 (ERASE File(s)) allows you to remove one or more files. You enter a file specification ("d:*.asm<return>"). After accepting your file specification, the program will display the files to be erased on the system console. You press "Y" for YES to ERASE the listed files, or any other key to not ERASE the files.

Menu Selection 6 (VERIFY On Write Toggle) turns on and off the read after write data verification function.

Menu Selection 7 (FORMAT a Diskette) allows you to format a blank diskette in any of the "foreign" formats supported by MEDIA MASTER. You select the drive used to format the diskette followed by the "foreign" format you wish to use. At the end of the

FORMAT and VERIFY process, you are given the option of formatting another diskette in the same "foreign" format or returning to the Main Menu. You press any key except "Y" to return to the Main Menu.

Menu Selection 8 (EXIT to CP/M) allows you to return to the operating system. You press "8<return>" to begin to EXIT. You then install your system diskette in the "A" drive and press any key except "ESCape" to EXIT to the operating system. If you press the "ESCape" key, you will be returned to the Main Menu.

Let's outline the steps to transfer all files from a DEC VT180 diskette to an IBM PC-DOS 1.0 diskette on your floppy disk-based computer:

"Boot up" the CP/M operating system on drive A: Make sure the diskette in drive A contains the "MM.COM" program.

Start the program by typing "MM<return>." FORMAT a diskette on drive B: by using menu selection 7. You choose the B: drive and the IBM PC-DOS 1.0 format.

Install the VT180 diskette in drive A:. LOG in the VT180 diskette in drive A: and the IBM PC-DOS 1.0 diskette in drive B:. You use menu selection 4 in both cases.

Use menu selection 1 to COPY files from the DEC VT180 diskette to the IBM PC-DOS 1.0 diskette. The source file specification is "A:*.* <return>". The destination drive is "B<return>".

After the Main Menu reappears, use menu selection 3 to DISPLAY the directory of the IBM PC-DOS 1.0 diskette. You enter "B:<return>" to the file specification prompt.

Now you have those DEC VT180 files on a diskette that is compatible with an IBM PC! You could have performed the same procedure to transfer files from the IBM PC disk to the DEC VT180 disk by switching names in the above procedure.

DETAILED OPERATION DESCRIPTION

In this section, we'll describe in detail how to use each of the individual Main Menu selections in MEDIA MASTER. Be sure you have made a backup of your distribution diskette before proceeding.

To start the program, enter "[d:]MM<return>," where the optional drive specifier "d:" is the drive on which the program resides. After a few seconds of disk activity to load the program, you should see the Main Menu. After this you may remove the diskette containing "MM.COM," since no overlays are required in MEDIA MASTER.

To make a selection from the menu, just press the appropriate number key (1 through 8) followed by "<return>." You may change your selection before pressing "<return>" by pressing a new selection. The old selection will be overwritten. Invalid selections are simply not accepted.

If you find that you made a valid selection and pressed "<return>," but it was not the selection that you really wanted, you may "backup" to the Main Menu by pressing the "ESCape" key. This "backup" function may be used at any point to move you towards the Main Menu.

Menu Selection 1 – COPY File(s)

This command allows you to transfer files between disks, provided that you have satisfied requirements of the LOG IN command of menu selection 4.

The first prompt you encounter is one asking for the source file specification. The syntax for the file specification is similar to

CP/M, but you must include a drive specifier "d:" at all times. You may include wildcard "*" specifications as well. Don't worry that you will forget the syntax and make errors. MEDIA MASTER will not let you make syntax errors. If you press a key that is not legal, it simply will not be recognized. You may erase entries by using the "backspace" key or "left arrow" key.

You enter the source file specification followed by "<return>." The following are examples of legal source file specifications: a:filname.ext, a:filname, a:-.025, b:fil*.ext, b:filname.*, b:*.8

As is the case in CP/M, the following characters are illegal in all filenames and extensions: space' ', left bracket '[', period '.', right bracket ']', comma ',', equals '=', semicolon '_', and slash '/'.

If you entered a wildcard "*" specifier in the source file specification, you will be prompted to select a destination drive which is different from the source drive. You make the drive selection followed by "<return>." For example, to select the "B" drive as the destination drive you enter "b<return>".

If you did not enter a wildcard specifier in the source file specification, you will be prompted to select a destination file specification. The destination file specification is entered in the same manner as the source file specification with two exceptions. First, the wildcard "*" specifier is not accepted as it was before. Secondly, if you wish the destination file to have the same name as the source file, you need only enter the drive specifier followed by "<return>". For example, if you entered "b:<return>" as the destination file specification, the destination file would take on the same name as the source file.

If you did not enter a wildcard specifier in the source file specification, you may rename a file by specifying the new name in the destination file specification. For example, you could use a source file specification of "a:oldname.fil<return>" and a destination file specification of "b:newname.fil<return>" to rename the file at the same time it was being transferred.

If you have used wildcard "*" specifiers in your source file specification, then files on the destination drive with the same name as files on the source drive will be automatically overwritten. If you only gave one file name in the source file specification, and the file exists on the destination drive, the message "Overwrite existing file?" will be displayed. If you wish the file to be overwritten, you press 'Y' for YES. If not, then press any other key and the program will return to the Main Menu without disturbing the file.

The COPY command will continue until no more files on the source drive match your source file specification, or until the destination drive runs out of space. If this happens, DON'T GET UPSET. MEDIA MASTER will pull you through with its disk-full handling.

If the destination drive is a floppy drive and does happen to run out of space, you will be given the option of continuing the COPY that has been interrupted, or aborting the COPY and returning to the Main Menu. If you choose to continue the COPY, press any key. If you choose to go back to the Main Menu, press the "ESCape" key.

If you continue the COPY, the LOG IN command from the Main Menu will be automatically called for the destination drive. You must again select a disk format as described in the section for menu selection 4. It is important to note that the format you select for the destination drive need not be the same as the format that you started with in the destination drive. MEDIA MASTER will adjust to a new format in the middle of the COPY process.

After successfully performing the LOG IN of a new diskette, the COPY of files will continue where it left off before the diskette ran out of space. No files will be lost or left out. You will find this feature particularly useful when performing wildcard "a:*.*" source file specifications with the source disk having more total file space to transfer than exists on the destination diskette.

The Main Menu will be displayed on the system console when the COPY is complete.

Menu Selections 2 and 3 – PRINT, DISPLAY Directory

This command provides you with on-screen or hardcopy detailed file and diskette space information. There is only one prompt in this command, a directory file specification.

The directory file specification is similar to file specifications previously mentioned. You need only enter "a:<return>" to get a directory of all files on drive A. You may also use the wildcard specifier "*" to get directory information on selected files.

Let's suppose you only want information about all files on drive "B" with a file extension of "com". To get pertinent size information on just these files, you enter "b:*.com<return>".

The PRINT Directory command sends the output to the printer, and displays "Printing Directory. . ." until the PRINT is complete.

The DISPLAY Directory command sends the output to the screen. If there is more directory information to display than can fit on one screen, the message "More. . . Press any key to continue. . ." will be displayed. When all of the files have been displayed, you are asked to press any key to continue and return to the Main Menu.

Menu Selection 4 – LOG IN a New Diskette

This command is used to tell MEDIA MASTER what type of diskette it is working with on a particular drive. It is very important that you perform this command before performing any of the other Main Menu selections. Some of the available disk formats have the same physical characteristics and differ only by sector skew values, making it nearly impossible for any program to distinguish the difference.

You may be used to the "control c" disk reset function in CP/M, and the LOG IN selection provides the same sort of function. However, unlike CP/M, you can change diskettes in a particular drive and not LOG it in, provided that the diskette is the same format as the previous one.

The default disk format selected during program start-up is the one that is normally used with your computer/operating system combination. If you are using the default format, and you have not performed a LOG IN with a different format, it is legal for you to select other Main Menu options without performing the LOG IN function. In addition, you could switch diskettes before making a

new Main Menu selection as long as the new diskette was of the same format. This feature allows you to use MEDIA MASTER on your "native" diskettes and not worry about performing a LOG IN at all.

Completing the LOG IN is a two-step process. The first prompt asks you to select a drive. You make a selection and press "<return>". For example, to select drive "A", you enter "a<return>". After this, the system console will display the available disk formats. You select a format by letter and press '<return>".

The program will then display "Performing LOG IN . . ." and test the diskette to see if the physical characteristics of the diskette match the selection you chose. If there is not a match, one of the possible error messages will be displayed on the system console for about 1 second. Then the format selection menu will reappear so that you may choose a new format.

At the end of the physical sector check, menu selection 3 (DISPLAY Directory) is automatically called to display all files on the new diskette. You press any key to return to the Main Menu.

MEDIA MASTER's LOG IN checks are not foolproof! If the directory appears "garbled," or has no files listed when you know there should be, then there is a good chance that the wrong format has been selected. You should recheck your LOG IN selection before attempting to COPY or ERASE files.

Menu Selection 5 – ERASE File(s)

This command is used to delete files on a particular drive. This

command has only one prompt. You are asked to supply an ERASE file specification. The syntax is the same as for the source file specification in Menu Selection 1 – COPY File(s).

For example, let's say you wanted to ERASE all files on drive "A" that started with the letters "help". The ERASE file specification you enter is "a:help*.*<return>".

All files that match the specification are listed on the system console before they are deleted. If you wish the files listed to be deleted, just press "Y" for YES. If not, press any other key and the ERASE will not occur.

After you make your decision, the ERASE is completed or aborted, and the program returns to the Main Menu.

Menu selection 6 – (VERIFY on Write Toggle)

The VERIFY command is used to turn on and turn off the VERIFY function. A VERIFY is performed during write operations to the floppy drives to ensure that the data was written correctly. This is performed by a byte for byte comparison of source and destination data.

The VERIFY is sequenced to the ON and OFF states by entering "6<return>" at the Main Menu prompt. The current state of the VERIFY command is displayed on the Main Menu. The default state of VERIFY at program start-up is ON.

With the VERIFY ON, MEDIA MASTER commands will take more time to complete since they must perform an additional read and

compare function. However, by leaving the VERIFY function active, you gain a higher confidence in the data stored on the diskette. We recommend leaving this function ON for data integrity.

Menu selection 7 – (FORMAT a Diskette)

The FORMAT selection allows you to prepare a "foreign" diskette on your computer.

After pressing menu selection 7, you select the drive used to FORMAT the diskette. Then the program asks you to select the FORMAT type. You respond by pressing a letter followed by <return>. Note that additional menu selection screens can be displayed by selecting the appropriate letter to select the next or previous screen. Once you have made the selection, place the diskette in the drive and press any key to start the FORMAT operation.

If no errors are encountered, MEDIA MASTER will first FORMAT, then VERIFY the diskette. If the VERIFY is successful, you will be prompted to FORMAT another diskette. If you wish to FORMAT another diskette in the same "foreign" format, just press the "Y" key for "YES", insert the new diskette, and press any key to begin.

If you do not press the "Y" key, the program will return to the Main Menu so you may choose a new format or EXIT.

Menu Selection 8 – (EXIT to CP/M)

This command will terminate program execution and return to

CP/M. You are given the option of returning to the Main Menu by pressing the "ESCape" key. In addition, you are requested to insert your system diskette (hard disk users can ignore this request) in the default drive before proceeding. This is to ensure that CP/M will be ready for your next command after the EXIT sequence.

If you choose not to return to the Main Menu, just press any key besides "ESCape", and the program will EXIT to CP/M.

HELPFUL HINTS

Your Computer's Disk Drives

Your computer is capable of reading both single and double density diskettes. However, since your computer has single-sided drives, it is not capable of reading double-sided diskettes

Note that disks from computers that use 96 TPI (Tracks per Inch) disk drives will probably not work with your computer, unless the 96 TPI computer is able to FORMAT a blank disk in one of the 48 TPI formats that MEDIA MASTER can recognize.

Programs From "Foreign" Computers

Some, but not all programs "imported" from foreign computers will work on your computer. If the program was designed to be "plain wrapper" CP/M, then it probably will work. If it contains machine-specific code, such as special graphics drivers, then it probably will not work unless an install program accompanies it.

The point to keep in mind here is that MEDIA MASTER does not change the image of the program in any manner. It simply copies the file from one disk format to another. It does NOT, for example, change a CP/M program to run under MS-DOS, and vice-versa.

Universal Data File Formats

Most DATA files are completely compatible. This means that Wordstar files, dBase II data and command files, Multiplan files, and many other types of data files may be freely transferred to and

used on another computer. As an example, the same Wordstar file could be started on an IBM PC running PC-DOS and finished on an Osborne using CP/M!

When transferring data files, we recommend that you attempt to use the software manufacturer's most generic data format. This will help ensure that when you cross operating system boundary lines, the data files will transfer with the least amount of trouble.

For example, when transferring BASIC source program code, first save the program using the ",A" option so that the code is saved in the ASCII format.

Likewise, when transferring spreadsheets, the same techniques can be used. In Multiplan, the standard data format is called the Symbolic Link (SYLK) format. With VisiCalc, the standard data format is the Data Information Format (DIF). Usually, the different software manufacturers have given their products the capability to use one of these formats.

Remember, MEDIA MASTER can only transfer the data as it is given. It can change the disk format of the file, but cannot change the data format of the file.

Notes on MS-DOS/PC-DOS diskettes

When performing operations with IBM MS-DOS 2.0 type diskettes, be sure that all files you wish to transfer are located in the root directory. MEDIA MASTER will ignore subdirectory entries and not process files in subdirectories.

You can, however, determine that a subdirectory is present. Just perform menu selection 4 (DISPLAY Directory) and enter "d:*.* <return>" to the directory file specification prompt. Then examine the "Other files use" statement at the bottom of the directory. If it is not zero, then a subdirectory exists.

You will also note that when displaying or printing directory information, the program truncates the displayed file size to the nearest "k" or 1024 bytes. This means that files occupying less than 1 k of disk space will be displayed as occupying zero k.

There is widespread diskette compatibility among MS-DOS/PC-DOS/Z-DOS computers. You will find that most IBM PC compatible computers use one of the formats available in MEDIA MASTER. If you are unsure of which one to use, just pick one and try to LOG IN the diskette using menu selection 1. If it is the wrong choice, MEDIA MASTER will tell you to try another format.

The following is a list of computers we know are compatible with one of the MEDIA MASTER PC-DOS formats: Compaq, Eagle PC, Corona PC, Chameleon, Hyperion, Heath Z100 ZDOS, TI Professional MS-DOS, Leading Edge PC, Olivetti PC, OSM-PC, Polo, Sperry PC, Tava PC, Columbia PC, Otrona, Visuial, Televideo TPC-II, and Sharp PC-5000.

For Hard Disk Users

For your convenience, MEDIA MASTER is not copy-protected, and may be installed on your hard disk in the CP/M section. This allows you to run MEDIA MASTER from the hard disk, but you will not be able to transfer files to the hard disk directly.

Expanding the Number of "Foreign" Formats

We are constantly striving to improve our products. If you would like to see more disk formats supported by MEDIA MASTER – we're willing to help. Here's what to do: Send us a letter describing the host computer (manufacturer, model number, operating system, and anything you can find relating to disk statistics), your name, address, and phone number. If your format is chosen, we will ask you to send us a disk for further investigation. If we add the format to the program, we will send you an updated copy of MEDIA MASTER for your trouble.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why isn't Apple on the list of supported formats?

Unfortunately, Apple DOS or CP/M formats will never be on the list. Your computer uses an integrated circuit disk controller which is capable of recognizing two recording formats. The Apple recording format is different from these two formats, so it is impossible for your computer to recognize the Apple recording format.

Is MEDIA MASTER copy protected? Can it back up copy protected disks?

MEDIA MASTER is NOT copy protected, and may be moved to your hard disk or backed up as needed. However, the program will not back up copy protected disks.

Does MEDIA MASTER run on other computers?

Due to the nature of performing disk format conversion, MEDIA MASTER as configured for your computer will not run on any other computer (unless it is hardware and software compatible). At the printing of this manual, there are versions of MEDIA MASTER to run on the following computers: DEC Rainbow 100, IBM PC and compatibles, Zenith Z100, Osborne 1 (double density), Osborne Executive, Osborne 4, and Kaypro II/2. New versions to support other computers will be available soon.

ERROR MESSAGES

Physical sectors/track do not match with format specified . . . Retry LOG IN on drive A.

During the LOG IN procedure, MEDIA MASTER determined that the physical characteristics of the diskette you inserted did not match with the format you chose from the format selection menu. You should verify that you specified the correct format or try another format.

Error during sector read on drive d:

After many attempts, MEDIA MASTER was unable to read a sector it thought it should be able to read. The diskette may be logged in incorrectly, or may be damaged.

Cannot read track address on drive d:

MEDIA MASTER was unable to do even the most simple interaction with the floppy you specified. The disk is probably damaged or is improperly loaded.

Diskette is write-protected on drive d:

The diskette was supposed to be involved in a write operation, but the write protect notch has been covered with a tab. Remove the tab before retrying.

Unable to seek proper track on drive d:

Same situation as "Cannot read track address" error.

Error during sector write on drive d:

After several retries, the disk controller still was sending MEDIA MASTER CRC errors. It's likely that the disk needs to be reformatted.

Drive not ready status on drive d:

MEDIA MASTER determined that the drive door is open, no diskette is installed, or the drive does not exist.

No more directory space on drive d:

During a COPY files to a floppy drive, the floppy disk ran out of directory space. Install a new disk in the drive and continue.

No more file space on drive d:

Same condition as "No more directory space" error.

VERIFY failed on drive d:

The VERIFY function was turned on and the source to destination byte for byte comparison failed. Retry the same operation with the same diskette. If it still fails, replace the diskette.

Source file directory error on drive d:

MEDIA MASTER encountered invalid information in the source floppy directory entry. Either the disk is improperly logged in, or there was an undetected read error when the directory information was read from the source floppy. Retry the same operation with the same diskette. If the problem persists, the diskette will have to be substituted.

Unable to locate files on drive d:

When attempting to do a directory, no match was found for the file specification given.

Unable to allocate memory . . . Aborting

At program start-up, MEDIA MASTER reserves system memory for disk buffering in addition to what is required to load the program itself. If this memory is not available because some other program is occupying it (examples are print spoolers, on line calculators, etc.), you will receive this error message and be returned to CP/M. The solution is to unload some of these other programs so that MEDIA MASTER has enough room to operate.

Note: If you have an Osborne computer, read the next section for an alternate solution.

INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC COMPUTERS

For Osborne Owners:

The next few paragraphs are primarily for Osborne 1 owners. Osborne Executive computers have a larger amount of memory than the Osborne 1, and are not likely to have the problem discussed below.

Your package contains two separate versions of MEDIA MASTER. The first version (which is described in the manual as "MM.COM") is the one most people will use. The other version is a two-program set consisting of the files "MM2.COM" and "MMFMT.COM". You may need to use this second version under special circumstances described below.

When MEDIA MASTER is loaded into the computer from the disk, it immediately tries to create a buffer area in memory for use in its file transfer routines. If an insufficient amount of memory is available for MM's needs, the program will abort and the message "Unable to allocate memory . . ." will be displayed. If you see this message when attempting to use "MM.COM", you have two alternatives.

First, you may have to re-boot the system to remove any programs residing in high memory that are "stealing" memory from MEDIA MASTER. For example, function key processor programs, or hard disk drivers use memory that MEDIA MASTER requires for operation. You probably will have to turn these programs off while using MEDIA MASTER. Also, any modifications to your operating system are likely to "steal" from MEDIA MASTER as well. It's best to return to a "normal" system while using the program.

The second alternative is to use the "MM2.COM" and "MMFMT.COM" programs instead of "MM.COM". The "MM2.COM" program works exactly like "MM.COM", except the menu selection to FORMAT diskettes has been removed to reduce the amount of system memory required to run. The FORMAT function is in the separate program "MMFMT.COM". In this case, you use "MM2.COM" just as described in this manual. When you wish to FORMAT diskettes, exit the "MM2.COM" program and invoke "MMFMT.COM".